

Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
May 13, 2015

Present: Lynn Stoddard (chair), Susannah Everett, Paul Shapiro, Vera Ward, Eric Grulke (guest), Sarah Munro (guest), Pjal Mirdha (guest), George & Joyce Rawitscher, Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 pm by Stoddard.

Approval of the March 11 and April 8, 2015 meeting minutes was deferred until there is a meeting quorum.

PhD UConn student, Pjal Mirha, gave a presentation on the value of building solar roof arrays on parking lots and highway medians close to existing infrastructure and population centers in order to reduce energy loss and transmission costs. Most large U.S. solar installations are located away from populated centers. His start-up company, RaSolar, is hoping to place prototype solar roofs at one of UConn's parking lots. Mr. Mirha was seeking the committee's feedback on what would make a project like this attractive to a municipality. Members suggested a comparable monthly electrical rate, short payback period and proven reliability as the primary selling points.

The committee discussed finding members for the Ad Hoc Climate Action Task Force. George and Joyce Rawitscher were recommended. When asked, Mark Boyer stated he would not be available. Julia Sherman was suggested as a possible member. Walton will seek out recommendations before the next meeting. The Town Clerk may be able to offer help in recruiting interest.

Walton reported on some of the activities of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, including recommending a near zero waste resolution, which was adopted by the Town Council on March 23, 2015, beginning dialog with school PTAs about promoting food waste prevention next school year and arranging the next upcoming Repair Café on June 27, 2015.

The public hearing on the Mansfield Tomorrow Plan is scheduled for May 18, 2015. After discussion, it was decided that given the sustainability committee's input throughout the Plan's development, it would not be necessary to attend the public hearing.

Future agenda items include evaluating the committee's goals and recommendations for Ad Hoc Climate Action Task Force members.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia Walton